



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Takes 1st Place in 2010 Field Day

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA, operating as W4DXA from the QTH of AA4SC, won Category 3E nationwide by a wide margin in this year's Field Day event. W4DXA scored 10,020 points. The second place entry scored 7,570 points. We also beat our own score from last year, 8,876 points, by a substantial margin. You can read how we did this on page 1 of the July 2010 Pileup (<http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1007.pdf>).

Here are some different ways to compare our scores to others:

- o W4DXA was 1st among the 20 entries in Category 3E.
- o W4DXA was 1st among all 27 entries in the South Carolina Section.
- o W4DXA was 8th among all 193 entries in the Roanoke Division.
- o All those that beat us ran between 4 and 10 transmitters.
- o W4DXA was 51st among all 2,617 entries in all categories.

So it was another great W4DXA Field Day effort. We dominated our class. Planning has started for Field Day 2011 at KI4TZ's QTH. This is an enjoyable event. Your participation can take many forms. We always need some hands for setup on one or two days before the event, and then there is takedown at the conclusion. Keeping several transmitters always on the air for 24 hours requires 72 man-hours of operating time for merely three transmitters—more if we choose to run as 4E, 5E or even 6E. CW operators are always needed. A thoughtful “quartermaster” can ensure that there is sufficient “fuel” for the human engine. So, you can help in many ways, even if operating is not your thing. What are you doing the last week of June, 2011? Why not join CDXA in the fun next June?

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

Changes in Dues, Expansion of Member Benefits

A new dues structure and enhanced membership benefit has been adopted by the Officers of CDXA. Over the past several years, there has been a trend toward more than one family member becoming a member of CDXA. In some cases, that participation came in the form of two spouses, or as a parent and an offspring. Your officers believe participation by multiple family members has been good for CDXA. Effective for 2011, yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Under the old dues structure, each member paid \$20 per year for dues.

Along with the new dues structure, the former surcharge of \$15 per annum for accessing the CDXA Spotting Cluster has been eliminated, and **ALL** members of CDXA are encourage to use the spotting network. The surcharge was to defray the cost of supporting a network formerly accessed primarily using RF connections (packet technology). These surcharges were only assessed to those members using the spotting network. The technologies of the Internet have significantly altered the cost of providing access as well as providing improved speed of operation. Any member who has not enjoyed the benefits of a spotting network is encouraged to give it a try. An article starting in the column to the right in this issue will help you get started.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

Cluster Use Now a Membership Benefit

Full privileges to use the CDXA Cluster are now included as part of your annual membership. With the pervasive presence of the Internet and telnet connections, the need for an RF connection to access spotting networks has virtually disappeared. A high cost component of maintaining a PacketCluster system has always been radios, TNCs, antennas, and tower facilities needed for the RF connections. Because some members in the early days of PacketCluster wanted access and some did not, CDXA always maintained a tiered dues structure in which only Cluster users bore the cost of Cluster facilities.

The officers of CDXA have seen the cost equation for Cluster access change so dramatically over the past few years that there was no longer a need for a special surcharge to support Cluster operations. Accordingly, all members of CDXA can now enjoy the benefits of the organization's spotting network as a member benefit.

The K4MD cluster is easy to access. Here's how:

The cluster is now accessed through a telnet protocol included in most logging programs like DX4WIN, etc. and/or it can be accessed through your browser like Internet Explorer. Wayne Setzer, our webmaster, has instructions on that on our website, www.cdxa.org.

Go to the CDXA website and look for Packet Cluster K4MD button across the top under the masthead banner. Place your cursor over that button and you should see a drop down box giving instructions on how to access the node through FTP protocol. Read and follow those instructions for the operating system and version of Internet Explorer that you have.

The telnet address of the node is K4MD.no-ip.com. You will need that address if you are using any of the logging programs so you can provide it the IP address of the K4MD cluster.

A free and versatile program to access our AR-Cluster is offered by VE7CC. Use a search engine like Google to find "VE7CC DX Cluster". You can learn about all of the features of this software on the website and download it if you like what you see. You can use VE7CC as a standalone or you can use it as a front end to access the cluster from various logging programs like DX4WIN. A writeup of VE7CC can be found in the September 2007 issue of the Pileup, available in the Newsletter archives on the CDXA website. Another

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

article in January 2008 also has a cautionary note about disabling a feature in VE7CC that slows down the K4MD node. Be sure to read those two articles if you think you'd like to use VE7CC, and be sure to make the alteration requested in the January 2008 edition of the Pileup.

If you want to access VE7CC from within DX4WIN, you'll need to address VE7CC with an IP address like 127.0.0.1. Details of this kind of access can usually be found in the "help" functions of your software. One of the advantages of using VE7CC is that it has a "keep alive" feature that keeps your telnet session active even if you're not sending spots regularly.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

(This information is extracted from the archived issues of the Pileup, available on the CDXA Website under the "Newsletter" tab in the Virtual Clubroom.—The Editor)

Ten Years Ago

Bob Burton (N4PQX) just announced that after two years he was stepping down as CDXA President. Roger Burt (N4ZC) and Gary Dixon (K4MQG) became the search committee to find a new President. . . . everyone was getting ready to run down to the BRANDING IRON eatery in Rock Hill for the Annual Meeting/Holiday Party. Ric Porter always provided good eatin' at the Branding Iron. . . . "Uncle Henry Elwell (N4UH-SK) mused about the thrill of the radio contest and staying awake at night to contest even in his 81st year. And, it was always good reading to hear Uncle Henry tell us about how well his outstanding Rhombic Antenna system worked into many parts of the World.

Twenty Years Ago

Uncle Henry Elwell reported that attendance on the Wednesday Night DX net was high with an average of 14.5 on hand. This net was still meeting since Packet-Cluster was just cranking up. . . . Editor Bill Taylor filled in the readership on the difficulties the Cluster was having during heavy contest activity when selected stations did not have sufficient power to make the packet's collision detection feature work as designed. This problem would continue for a few years until all were educated on how CDMA works and the need for strong packet signals. . . . Believe it or not, CDXA was getting ready to go to the Branding Iron in 1990 for the Annual Meeting!. . . . Uncle Henry led the way with over 1 Million Point in the recently completed CQWW SSB contest.



2010 Christmas Party/Annual Meeting

- When: Thursday, December 9th
 Time: Cocktail Hour—6:30 PM, Sit Down
 Dinner—7:20 PM
- Where: Carolina Prime Steakhouse
 225 East Woodlawn Road
 Charlotte, NC
- Fare: A special menu with several choices
 will be available for the CDXA crowd.
- Libation: Cash bar for beer, wine and cocktails

We have space for lots of attendees at this venue. Election of officers for 2011 will be conducted at the annual meeting and CWAC awards will be presented. Besides that, we'll just have a good time!

Contact VP Paul Ponak by December 1 with your reservation at:

pponak@carolina.rr.com

Welcome New Members. . .

When October rolled in, CDXA found **George Hohas (W4GEH)** as a new member in the ranks of CDXA. George lives in Charlotte. George doesn't live too far from our luncheon venue, so we hope to see him stop by from time to time.

The new family membership option resulted in two new XYL members for CDXA in October. **Suzanne Sturpe (N3ASF)** and XYL of Cluster Manager-North Paul Sturpe (W3GQ) is now a CDXA member. Also joining in October was **Ida Williams (N4SBJ)**, XYL of Contest Manager Dick Williams (W3OA). Neither Suzanne nor Ida are strangers to CDXA, however. We've seen both of them at CDXA events for the past several years.

Welcome, all of you, to CDXA!

CDXA Skimmer Network in CQWW

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA will again be providing CW Skimmer spots for this month's CQWW contest. As of this writing the plan is to have Skimmers running at K4DXA, N2TU, and W3GQ. We can easily add more locations so please let me know if you will be running a Skimmer and would like your spots available for other CDXA members.

Spots from these Skimmers will go to a Gateway program at W3OA. You telnet to it and it asks you for your callsign. The Gateway then signs into the K4MD Cluster node using your callsign. Everything you send to the gateway is repeated to the K4MD node. And everything the K4MD node sends to your callsign at the Gateway is repeated to you. The Gateway also sends you spots from our Skimmers. If the K4MD node goes down for some reason I can connect the Gateway to another Cluster node and you will continue to get the spots from the Cluster network.

Now for some FAQs. . . .

How do I get the Skimmers spots? Just telnet to w3oa.no-ip.org. You can use the same software you currently use to get spots from K4MD and change the IP address to w3oa.no-ip.org (note the .org at the end as opposed to the .com at the end of K4MD's IP address).

What will I see? Both the spots from the Skimmers and K4MD. You won't lose the K4MD spots by connecting to W3OA. The Skimmer spots and K4MD spots will be interleaved together in time sequence. The Skimmers will be set to only send spots from verified DX stations calling CQ. If you are using N1MM the Skimmer spots will marked on the Bandmap and in the Mult's and Q's window with a "#" after the beam heading. This tells you which stations have been heard by a receiver in our geographic area. So these are the stations you may want to try and work first.

Can I test this out before the contest? Yes. The Gateway at W3OA will be running from November 20th until the contest is over. Send me an email if you have difficulties (w3oa@roadrunner.com).



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a CDXA Jacket from Lands' End or an AES Gift Certificate are on page 10 of the January Pileup (<http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa1001.pdf>).

Item 2: Don't forget you can get up to six country credits for working the Netherlands Antilles (PJs). They count for two countries prior to October 10 and four countries on October 10 and later. CQ has provided a new score sheet and instructions at <http://dxmarathon.com/>.

Item 3: Of course we will have another DX King competition. We haven't decided what the 2011 raffle prizes will be so if you have any suggestions let me know in the next two weeks. We will publish the full details in the January Pileup.

Item 4: These are the scores I have for the 2010 DX King competition as of October 31:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Zones</u>	<u>Total</u>
K5EK	Unlimited	267	40	307
W3GQ	Unlimited	250	40	290
K4YR	Unlimited	246	40	286
W7DO	Unlimited	244	40	284
W4HG	Unlimited	234	40	274
W3OA	Unlimited	232	40	272
N4PQX	Unlimited	227	40	267
W4UFO	Unlimited	190	40	230
W3ZL	Formula	185	35	220
KZ2I	Unlimited	173	38	211
N2TU	Unlimited	163	38	201
K8YC	Unlimited	160	35	195
W3NC	Unlimited	147	34	181
AA4SC	Unlimited	150	30	180
K4DXA	Unlimited	129	36	165
K1MIJ	Unlimited	130	33	163
W4HLD	Unlimited	120	32	152
K4ESE	Unlimited	119	32	151
W4WNT	Formula	113	27	140
N4QVM	Unlimited	102	30	132

Item 5: Don't forget to send me your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month.

CQWW, CW, Starts Friday, November 26

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA's half-time report for the CQWW contest is looking good. As of this writing, our Club score is just over 17.8 million points. Last year at this time we were at just over 14.5 million points. We still need a very strong effort in the CW contest to reach our goal of getting CDXA back in to the top ten in the club competition. See another article in this issue on how to take advantage of our network of CW Skimmers to improve your score. So, after you finish your Thanksgiving celebration get on the air, have some fun, and contribute to CDXA's club score. Everyone's contribution will help.

Joe (KI4TZ), Steve (KZ2I), Bob (N4PQX), Dick (W3OA), and Paul (W3GQ) formed the CDXA five-man SSB team. The Team scored almost 5.9 million points. Again, we continue to improve year to year in the team competition.

Everyone who operates in either contest should submit their log to CQ to contribute to our Club score. CQ will send you an email confirming receipt of your Cabrillo log. If you didn't get the email, you need to resubmit. Full details on how to do this are in the contest rules at [CQWW Rules](#). Remember to show "Carolina DX Association" as your Club.

The deadlines for submitting logs to CQ have been moved up this year. They are November 21st for SSB and December 21st for CW.

I need your results, both SSB and CW, by November 30 so I can have the CWAC prizes ready to present at our December 9th Christmas party. Send me your number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total score. Additionally, I need your power level (high, low, or QRP) and whether or not you were assisted. And, if you made over 1000 QSOs, your preference for a prize – trophy or Outback Steak House gift card. Send them to: w3oa@roadrunner.com.

Some Soapbox Comments (most edited for brevity):

AA4V/VP9: Since FedEx lost our beam, Gay, N4SF and I opted to operate as a multi-single using 2 Butter-nut verticals (HF9V and HF2V w/160M kit). The antennas were mounted on a cliff about 75 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, using a 50 radial field for each. DX conditions were quite good through the 29th. On Friday morning, the SS count plunged from 70+ to 30+, not a good sign. Unfortunately, Tropical storm Shari chose 0Z to appear over our shack with 70 MPH winds, tor-

rential rain and serious lightning. It blew all night. Our plan to open on 20M turned out not to be a good idea as we had about 3 contacts in the first 10 minutes. We then QSYed to 40M and the fun began. The rig was the Elecraft K3 which worked flawlessly. Amazingly, we were able to eclipse our score from last year (3900 Qs/3.6M points as a multi-2 with the beam) with a score of 4236 Qs/4.76M points (subject to log checking) running the VP9 legal limit of 100W. Forty meters was our best band, closely followed by 20 and 15.

K3XC: I was off of the air for the past four years and am ecstatic to return to great band conditions. I was not able to keep a run frequency but I was able to bag most of the multipliers that I heard, and ended up with DXCC on 15, 20 and almost 40. The FRC gang beat me up pretty good in the pileups, but I cannot complain about my station's abilities; especially considering that I only have a quarter-acre lot in the city. It is now time to fine-tune my operating abilities and prepare for next year now that I know my station's capabilities.

K4LY: I was feeling weak so decided to operate low power assisted for as many hours as I could bear. My expectations were to operate maybe a dozen hours or so. As it turned out, I felt pretty good and operated 34 hours! Perhaps because the assisted category was so easy (and an eye-opening novel experience for me) using N1MM contest software and a telnet connection to the CDXA cluster, I didn't have to strain to listen much. The S&P, my strength as a contester, was mostly visual-using a mouse click to go to the frequency of an un-worked station. I had set up the telnet connection before with my trusty old TS-850, but not being a DXer, I didn't appreciate its value. I was amazed at how easily it worked. I've always done 95%+ S&P, usually 100% like this weekend. The assisted S&P is quite different- a single mouse click of either the incoming spots or the bandmap spots which show only stations you need, and you're on the frequency of the needed station and usually in the middle of a pile-up! I spent a few minutes Sunday afternoon doing traditional S&P, finding some needed stations and mults with almost no pile-ups, so assisted does have its disadvantages. A noteworthy disadvantage was that on a few occasions I mindlessly clicked on to an out-of-band station and called. One of my contacts was out-of-band. As it turned out, I enjoyed the assisted category and contributed a lot more points than expected to CDXA.

KI4TZ: My AL-80B let out a little smoke Friday night

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

and blew a bunch of fuses. I got it going the next morning but it does not like 80 or 40 right now. I'll be down a little this year. Having fun though. I promise to have the new tower and 160 antenna before next year. But, my outing was not too bad for just getting my station back together this past Monday.

N4PQX: (Saturday morning) Sorry guys, looks like I lost the Orion at 1AM this morning, no output in the middle of a Q, checked everything, master reset etc. and no go. My TS480 has a broken connector as well, so I'm working to try to fix the 480 and see if I can make up a cable for the computer, but looks like I'm pretty much eliminated due to rig failure. (Sunday evening) Got to call TenTec in the am but looks like the Orion will be going in for repair (no output). Saturday morning I fixed the broken headphone jack on the 480 as when the jack is broken even the internal and external speakers don't work (design flaw IMO). Got back in the game Saturday about 11:30 am or so. Propagation seemed good for the most part, but I really need to get something new up for 40m, rather lacking there. Fifteen meters was good to me, seemed to be the place to be during the day. The 480 with no filters isn't that pleasing on the ears in contest mode. (Thursday) Paul from TenTec called today to say my rig is a total loss and is lightning damaged. Only thing I can think is any lightning damage had occurred previously sometime and the rig just finally 'went' in the contest. TenTec is sending me a letter so I can begin the insurance claim process.

CDXA Prizes for ARRL Ten Meter Contest Participation!

Last year 28 clubs entered the Medium Category of the ARRL Ten Meter Contest Club Competition. CDXA came in 27th of those 28. Not up to our standards! In order to improve our performance we will give Outback Steak House gift cards to three top scoring CDXA members and draw for a forth gift card presentation among all other CDXA participants. Details will be posted on the CDXA web page in December. For now, mark off the weekend starting Friday, December 10, on your calendar for participation in the contest and review the rules at <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>.

The Philosophy of Ambiguity or The Idiosyncrasies of English

Why do they lock gasoline station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.

A little Pun Pfun. . . .

The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray during WW I became a seasoned veteran.

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said, Keep off the Grass.

More Scenes from W4DXCC-SEDCO

(Here are a few more scenes from the SEDCO Convention in the waning weeks of September, 2010.)



Cecil Sullivan, Jim and Norma Miller along with Ken and Bev Boyd await their turn for the buffet line at the banquet. Below, Sue and Paul Sturpe chat with Wayne Ashworth about the presentations at the conference while Cliff Wagoner listens in. CDXA had about two dozen members and spouses in attendance.



Annual December Elections of 2011 Officers

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting/Holiday Party of the Carolina DX Association is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2010 at Carolina Prime Steakhouse; 225 East Woodlawn Road; Charlotte, NC immediately following dinner at approximately 8:00PM. CDXA will elect its officers to serve for the 2011 calendar year at that time. All current officers have expressed a willingness to stand for reelection for 2011. Yet, anyone wishing to run for any office should make his/her desire known to the Nominating Official, Sam Hawes (K4DGJ) at hamk4dgj@aol.com to have their name put into nomination at the Annual Meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, please make sure that person is willing to serve, if elected. You may cast a write-in vote for any office, as long as the write-in candidate has agreed to serve, if elected.

Proxy voting for the Annual Meeting/Election of Officer was adopted by the membership as a By-Law provision at an earlier Annual Meeting. A proxy is attached below. Write-in votes may be cast by filling in the appropriate blank on the proxy. *Send your proxy to the Secretary-Treasurer to arrive at least one week before the annual meeting.*

Carolina DX Association

Proxy for Annual Meeting/Election of 2011 Officers To be held on December 9, 2010



I, _____, a member in good standing, do hereby appoint Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL), current CDXA Secretary/Treasurer or, in his absence, Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF), current CDXA President, as my proxy to vote my choice for CDXA 2011 officers. If I decide to attend the meeting in person, I reserve the right to withdraw this proxy and vote my choices in person.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

President	_____ Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF)	_____ Write-In
Vice-President	_____ Paul Ponak (AD4IE)	_____ Write-In
Secretary-Treasurer	_____ Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL)	_____ Write-In
Newsletter Editor	_____ John Scott (K8YC)	_____ Write-In
Cluster Manager	_____ Joe Simpkins (K4MD)	_____ Write-In
Contest Manager	_____ Dick Williams (W3OA)	_____ Write-In

Send executed proxy by December 1 to: Cliff Wagoner, P.O. Box 577, Davidson, NC 28036

The Back Page

The results are in. CDXA made another fine showing in **Field Day 2010** by finishing first in the 3E category. See the Page 1 story.

Recent weeks have seen increased activity on 10 meters. To encourage participation in the **ARRL 10 Meter Contest** in December, CDXA will be awarding prizes of **Outback Gift Certificates** for top performers and a random drawing for the same certificate just for participating. You must submit your score in support of CDXA to ARRL to get in on the action. Details on Page 6.

Dues for 2011 are due in Secretary/Treasurer Cliff Wagoner's hands by the end of December. A family dues system is available in 2011 to save you a few dollars. In addition, all members now have **spotting Cluster privileges** included in the basic membership dues. See details on Page 2.

The annual **Election of Officers and Holiday Party** is scheduled for Thursday, December 9. You'll be hearing more from VP Paul Ponak in coming weeks, but details are on Page 3. A voting proxy for election of officers will be found on Page 7.

A **CW Skimmer** will be in operation again for CQWW CW. This handy aid for assisted operation will be improved even over last year's version. FAQs and details are on Page 4.

Announcement of **CQWW CW** and some **soapbox comments from CQWW SSB** will stir your competitive juices for CQWW CW coming the last weekend in November. There is still an opportunity to win some nice prizes as part of our "Contest Within A Contest" (CWAC) as well as helping to improve CDXA's club score. See page 5.

No *Pileup* is published in December while the editor gets a needed rest. See you in January!

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.